



Taxicab Information Sheet

This information sheet gives an overview of key provisions that apply to **taxicabs** with the passage of Ordinance #124524. Please reference Ordinance #124524 or SMC 6.310 for the complete requirements and responsibilities for operating a taxicab association or taxicab.

If you have questions, please email taxicab@seattle.gov or call (206) 386-1267.

Vehicle: Taxicab

(Full requirements can be found at: SMC 6.310.130, 6.310.325 – .335)

- City taxicab licenses shall transition to a medallion system in 2015 (SMC 6.310.135).
- Insurance must be filed with the City of Seattle with minimum bodily injury liability limits of \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per accident and \$25,000 property damage; and underinsured motorist limits of \$100,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident (SMC 6.310.300).
- Taxicab vehicle must pass a uniform vehicle safety inspection by an ASE-certified mechanic approved by the City of Seattle (SMC 6.310.330.J).
- Taxicab vehicle must be affiliated with a licensed taxicab association (SMC 6.310.130.A).
- Taxicab vehicle model year can be no more than ten years prior to the license date (SMC 6.310.325.F).

Driver: Taxicabs

(Full requirements can be found at: SMC 6.310.400 – .470)

- Taxicab operator must hold a valid for-hire driver license (SMC 6.310.130.A).
- A temporary for-hire driver license shall be issued within two business days to an applicant who has filed a complete license application (SMC 6.310.400 - .425).
- A for-hire driver shall allow the City to inspect the taxicab or for-hire vehicle without notice at any reasonable time or place (SMC 6.310.450.G).
- For-hire drivers shall report to the taxicab associations all trip records and other required records (SMC 6.310.540).

Operation: Taxicab Drivers

(Full requirements can be found at: SMC 6.310.400 – .470)

- Taxicab drivers shall not be in control of a taxicab vehicle for more than 12 hours in a 15-hour span during any 24-hour period. Total hours include operating TNC vehicles, taxicabs, or for-hire vehicles (SMC 6.310.452.B).
- Evidence of vehicle insurance must be in the taxicab vehicle (SMC 6.310.452.D).
- Taxicab vehicle drivers shall submit trip records weekly to taxicab associations and provide all other records required (SMC 6.310.540).



Rates

Pending a City issued rule establishing new taxi meter rates, and while not operating on an application dispatch system, contract rates or special rates, rates are as follows (SMC 6.310.530):

- Drop charge: for passengers first 1/9 mile: \$2.60 (proposed).
- Per mile: For each 1/9 mile or fraction thereof after the first 1/9 mile: \$0.30.
- For every one minute of waiting time: \$0.50 (charged at \$0.30 per 36 seconds).
- All taxicabs shall charge a flat rate from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Unless using application dispatch, the flat rate shall be filed with the City (SMC 6.310.530G).
- If using an application dispatch system rates shall be transparent to the rider before confirming the ride (SMC 6.310.530.3A).

Taxi Associations

(Full requirements can be found at: SMC 6.310)

- Taxi association must have a valid license (SMC 6.310.130).
- Taxi associations must maintain required records for two years (SMC 6.310.540.E).
- On a quarterly basis, taxicab associations must submit data to City (SMC 6.310.540C).
- Collect and remit to City Wheelchair Accessible Surcharge Fund fees of \$0.10 per trip (SMC 6.310.175).

Fees

(Full fees can be found at: SMC 6.310.150)

- Annual Seattle taxicab license fee: \$500.
- Seattle for-hire driver license fee: \$50.
- City of Seattle business license fee: \$90.

Penalties

(Full penalties can be found at: SMC 6.310.600 – 635)

- Unlicensed operation: \$513 fine first offense, criminal misdemeanor second offense in five years (SMC 6.310.600.A).

Appeal Process

- If issued a violation, suspension or revocation, licensee may request a hearing within 10 days by contacting the Consumer Affairs office located at 805 S Dearborn St, Seattle, WA 98134. Instructions are on the reverse side of the Notice of Violation or License Action Form.
- If issued a Notice of Infraction, licensee must respond within 15 days from date issued. Instructions will be on the reverse side of the Notice of Infraction and payments or requests for hearings are processed by Seattle Municipal Court.

This information sheet should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described above.